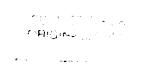


TECH CENTER 1600/2900



Patent Docket P3230R1C23

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Dan L. Eaton et al.

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: 10/063534

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Filed: 5/2/2002

i hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage, as first class mall in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

September 3, 2002

Patricia Terrill

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Assistant Commissioner of Patents** Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above captioned patent application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered.

## In the specification:

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, line 2, that was previously added by preliminary amendment.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 1, line 2:

## -- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 10/006867 filed 12/6/2001, which is a continuation of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, PCT Application PCT/US00/23328 filed 8/24/2000, which is a continuation-in-part of, and claims priority under 35 USC §120 to, US Application 09/403297 filed 10/18/1999, now abandoned, which is the